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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/588,350	06/07/2000	Kazuo Matsuyama	0162/00557	8119
30678	7590	07/30/2004	EXAMINER	
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP SUITE 800 1990 M STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3425			ELISCA, PIERRE E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 07/30/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/588,350

Applicant(s)

MATSUYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Pierre E. Elisca

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is in response to Applicant's amendment, filed on 4/29/2004.
2. Claims 1, and 3-26 are pending.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: Applicant is advised to remove the pronoun "it in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Walker et al. (U.S. pat. No. 6,240,396) in view of Anderson et al (U.S. pat. No. 6,209,095).

As per claims 1, 3-26 Walker substantially discloses a system/method for managing conditional purchase offers, where an individual searching for a ticket to a particular event may provide a guarantee purchase offer to a plurality of potential sellers (which is seen to read as Applicant's claimed invention wherein it is stated that a method of processing an issuance of electronic rights information in a rights information processing system in which a user terminal unit, an issuer unit, and an account unit are

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interconnected on a communication network through which electronic tickets can be circulated) comprising:

transmitting an account address and a demand for issuance from a user terminal unit to an issuer unit (see., fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-4);

causing the issuer unit to transmit the demand for issuance to an account unit which corresponds to the account address (see., abstract, col 7, lines 58-67, col 8, lines 1-62);

to obtain a user identifier from the account unit (see., Fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7);

to prepare an electronic tickets inclusive of the user identifier (see., Fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7);

and to transmit the electronic tickets to the account unit through the communication network (see., col 7, lines 58-67, col 8, lines 1-62); and

causing the account unit corresponding to the user's account address to store the electronic tickets in a storage in said account unit (see., Fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7, table 530, ID or signature. Applicant's newly added limitation is also disclosed by walker in col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7, specifically wherein said customer database 530 maintains a plurality of records, such as records 546 and 548, each associated with a different customer. Customers registered in customer table 530 may buy tickets, sell tickets or both buy and sell tickets. Customer table 530 stores a unique customer identifier for each customer in field and name and address information in field 534 and 536). Walker further discloses the limitation in claim 3 wherein said electronic rights information should be passed for a ticket examination or not see., abstract, col 8,

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lines 10-63, specifically wherein it is stated that central controller requests a customer Id and compares the information provided by the user with information already stored in customer table 530. If a match is found, central controller retrieves the customer ID.

Walker fails to explicitly disclose Applicant's newly added limitation wherein said verifying the certificate account address. However, Anderson discloses a method/system for processing electronic documents. A public signature verification key can sequentially verify the bank's certificate, the account certificate (see., abstract, fig 6, col 27, lines 66 and 67, col 28, lines 1-24. Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teaching of Walker and including the limitation detailed above as taught by Anderson because this would permit secure transfer of funds from the user's account to the merchant's or issuer's account.

As per claim 2, Walker discloses the claimed method, comprises:

causing the issuer unit to access the account address of the user upon receiving the demand for issuance (see., abstract, col 7, lines 58-67, col 8, lines 1-62);

causing the accessed account unit to transmit a certificate of account address which guarantees a correspondence relationship between the account address assigned to the user and an identifier of the user of the account unit to the issuer (see., col 7, lines 58-67, col 8, lines 1-25, electronic acceptance or certificate);

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causing the issuer unit to verify the certificate of account address and allowing it to use the identifier of the user contained in the certificate of account address as the user identifier upon successful verification (see., Fig 5C, col 4, lines 62-67, col 5, lines 1-7).

RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS

6. Applicant's arguments filed on 4/29/2004 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new ground (s) of rejection. Necessitated by amendment, filed on 4/29/2004.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pierre E. Elisca whose telephone number is 703 305-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on 703 305-9769. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Pierre Eddy Elisca

Primary patent Examiner

July 27, 2004